

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 NEA-10 IO-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2375

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, IT

SUBJECT: LAWS GOVERNING FIREARMS IMPORTATION

REF: STATE 177789

1. ITALIAN ARMS CONTROL REGULATIONS ARE MOST STRINGENT
ESPECIALLY AFTER RECENT LEGISLATION PASSED WHEN LAW AND ORDER
A CRITICAL POLITICAL ISSUE.

2. ITALIAN ARMS AND AMMUNITION IMPORTER MUST PRESENT LICENSE
ISSUED BY MINISTRY OF INTERIOR BEFORE SHIPMENTS CAN CLEAR
CUSTOMS. LICENSES NORMALLY GRANTED ONLY TO KNOWN AND
ESTABLISHED DEALERS. ARMS AND AMMUNITION MAY BE SOLD IN
ITALY ONLY BY LICENSED DEALERS. INDIVIDUAL PURCHASES OF
ARMS BY MAIL NOT PERMITTED.

3. AFTER IMPORTATION DEALERS MAY SELL ARMS ONLY TO INDIVIDUALS
LICENSED BY LOCAL POLICE, AND ARE REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN RECORDS
OF ALL ARMS SOLD, WITH NAME AND ADDRESS OF EACH BUYER, NUMBER
OF HIS LICENSE AND ISSUE DATE. LOCAL POLICE OFFICIALS HAVE
DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY IN GRANTING INDIVIDUAL LICENSES WHICH
MUST BE RENEWED EACH YEAR.

4. ABOVE REGULATIONS APPLY WITHOUT EXCEPTION TO ALL FIREARMS
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(SUCH AS HANDGUNS, SHOTGUNS, RIFLES AND TARGET PISTOLS)

AND TO AIR RIFLES, COMPRESSED AIR PISTOLS AS WELL AS OTHER WEAPONS INCLUDING DAGGERS AND STILETTOS. IN CASE OF IMPORTED GUNS, ITALIAN AUTHORITIES STAMPS THEM WITH A DISTINCTIVE SYMBOL BEFORE THEY CAN BE SOLD LOCALLY.

5. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY SPOT CHECK WITH LOCAL ARMS DEALER, MINISTRY OF INTERIOR IMPORT LICENSE USUALLY IN HAND AT TIME ORDER IS PLACED. HOWEVER, AS IMPORT LICENSE NOT NEEDED UNTIL ACTUAL CLEARANCE OF ITALIAN CUSTOMS, THERE ARE CONCEIVABLY CASES IN WHICH IMPORTERS PLACE ORDERS WITH FOREIGN SUPPLIERS AND SUBMIT IMPORT LICENSE REQUESTS TO ITALIAN MINISTRY OF INTERIOR SIMULTANEOUSLY. VOLPE

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